

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/596,365

Examiner

Larry D. Donaghue

Applicant(s)

HORVITZ ET AL.

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed 10/29/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15, 17-22 and 25-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


LARRY D. DONAGHUE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Replace the first paragraph on page 1, with the following

The present application claims the benefit of the provisional patent application filed on March 16, 2000, entitled "Attentional Systems and Interfaces," and assigned serial no. 60/189,801.

Replace the para. beginning on page 12, at line 21, with the following

The invention is not limited to how the manager 204 makes its decisions as to which of the notifications to convey to which of the notification sinks, and in what manner the notifications are conveyed. In one embodiment, a decision-theoretic analysis can be made. For example, the notification manager can be designed to infer important uncertainties about variables including a user's location, attention, device availability, and amount of time until the user will access the information if there were no alert. The notification manager can then make notification decisions about whether to alert a user to a notification, and if so, the nature of the summarization and the best device or devices to employ for relaying the notification. Such a particular embodiment is described in the copending and coassigned case entitled "Decision-Theoretic Principles and Policies for Notification." Serial number 09/596,348, now U.S. Patent 6,513,026. In general, the manager 204 determines the net expected value of a notification. In doing so, it can consider the following:

- the fidelity and transmission reliability of each available notification sink;
- the attentional cost of disturbing the user;
- the novelty of the information to the user;
- the time until the user will review the information on his or her own;
- the potentially context-sensitive value of the information; and,
- the increasing and/or decreasing value over time of the information contained within the notification.

Replace the para. on page 23, beginning at line 7, with the following

Each of the schema parameters is now described in term. The class of the device refers to the type of the device: a cell phone, a desktop computer, a laptop computer, etc. The class can also be more general, such as a

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mobile device, a stationery device, etc. The modes of signaling refer to the different ways in which a given device can alert the user about a notification. Devices may have one or more notification modes. For example, a cell phone can only vibrate, only ring with some volume, or it can both vibrate and ring. Furthermore, a desktop display for an alerting system can in one embodiment be decomposed into several discrete modes (e.g., a small notification window in the upper right hand of the display vs. a small thumbnail at the top of the screen - with or without an audio herald), as described in the cofiled, copending and coassigned application entitled "Display and Human-Computer Interaction for a Notification Platform." , serial number 09/596,364, now U.S. patent 6,601,012. Beyond being limited to a set of predefined behaviors, a device can allow for modes with alerting attributes that are functions of parameters, as part of its definition. Such continuous alerting parameters for a mode represent such controls as the volume at which an alert is played at the desktop, rings on a cell phone, the size of an alerting window, etc.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The affidavit filed on 10/16/2006 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Horvitz et al. "Attention-Sensitive Alerting in Computing Systems" reference.

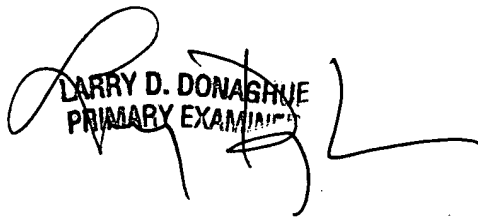
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Larry D. Donaghue whose telephone number is 571-272-3962. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry D. Donaghy", is written over a rectangular stamp. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end. The stamp text is partially obscured by the signature.

LARRY D. DONAGHY
PRIMARY EXAMINER